

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Dan Williamson, Mayor's Office, 645-5300
Cynthia Rickman, Development, 645-8795
John Ivanic, City Council, 645-6798

**Franklinton Building Demolished to Make Way for Creative
Community District**

Mayor Michael B. Coleman today was joined by City Councilmember Zachary M. Klein, representatives of Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority and Urban Smart Growth, and Franklinton neighborhood leaders as the former B&T Metals site, 435 W. Town Street, was demolished to make way for future development efforts. Once completed, the District will catalyze and sustain neighborhood revitalization and provide a place for the creative community to live and work.

"The demolition of this blighted building allows us to create a new vision for this neighborhood," Mayor Coleman said. "This begins our efforts to market, incentivize and build an affordable neighborhood tailored for our city's creative sector."

Plans for the area include affordable housing, including live/work space that will allow the creative class to invest, create and live in the neighborhood. Homeownership opportunities will be offered in an effort to stabilize the community.

"There is an energy and excitement surrounding the partnership between the city, Urban Smart Growth and the Franklinton community that will we believe will transform this area into the next great Columbus neighborhood," said Councilmember Klein, chair of the Development Committee. "The residential growth will lead to greater commercial development that will have a ripple effect throughout Franklinton."

B&T Metals closed its doors in 1982, and once produced aluminum products, including carpet strips, door frames and weather stripping materials. It was also the first manufacturing plant owned by an African-American family in the U.S. and employed 500 people. The site will be redeveloped by Lance J. Robbins of Urban Smart Growth.

"I am excited that the B&T Metals project is finally starting," said Carol Stewart, chair of the Franklinton Area Commission. "I signed the demolition permit with great joy, having given up on saving the building and realizing the need to move forward."

"This is the beginning of something really big," said Jim Sweeney, President of the Franklinton Development Association. "Together we're going to develop a whole new neighborhood in East Franklinton. Thanks to the mayor and the city for having a great vision."

Other large and small cities have experienced economic and neighborhood revitalization through catering to the creative sector including:

Miami Beach, FL Cultural Arts Neighborhood District Overlay Incentive

Boston, MA

Covington, KY The Covington Artist Residential District Homeowner Loan Program

Paducah, KY The Artist Relocation Program

Seattle, WA

Austin, TX

“Urban Smart Growth will be offering a unique community of studio spaces, performance and event venues, galleries and music, food and drink to the Columbus artistic and creative class and the community at large,” said Lance Robbins of Urban Smart Growth. “Franklinton is truly on the move after many years of quiet preparation.”